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Bill Duncan

PEOPLE & PLACES

2013 MoNEP Exhibit Update

Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. MoNEP has been invited to have an exhibit at Runge during July and August as part of the celebration. MoNEP is also scheduled to have an exhibit at **Shaw Nature Reserve** during September and October. We are seeking members' photographs to include in these exhibits.

If you are interested, please prepare and submit up to **five** nature images to **Lori Purk** by the April meeting. Images should be of subjects that can be found in Missouri. Please also keep in mind that our second exhibit has a more narrow subject matter focus, with a theme of ***Food***. Since we will not be able to show as many pieces at the second exhibit, those that fit the theme the best will be moved to the second venue. This theme can be interpreted many ways. We suggest you think about who eats what, or who eats whom in nature in Missouri. Subjects can include: insects and other animals feeding on plants; animals hunting prey or grazing; birds feeding their young; spider webs for capturing prey; butterflies, bees and hummingbirds feeding on flower nectar; squirrels storing nuts; edible native fruits trees and shrubs.

Once the submissions are collected, a committee will select the work to be displayed. Members will be notified by the end of April. If your work is selected, you will be responsible for having your work printed, mounted and matted. We will most likely have a group framing session sometime in May or June. Submissions should be sized the same as they would be for *Share and Show* or

MoNEP Exhibit Update continued

the *Holiday Show* and labeled with your name, the title of the piece, what the subject is and where the photograph was taken. Please refer to the MoNEP web site for more information on how to resize your images before putting them on a CD for submission.

Please include your name, email and phone number with your submissions. Feel free to contact Lori Purk at **314-869-7427** or **purkyl8r@aol.com** if you have any questions. As always, we look forward to sharing some of our group's incredible work with the public.

Smoky Mountains: Newfound Gap Road Closure

For those planning a spring visit to the Smokies, please be advised that Newfound Gap Road is closed to through traffic due to a large landslide at mile marker 22. This is the main route through the park from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to Cherokee, North Carolina. It is possible to drive from the park entrance at Gatlinburg up to Newfound Gap but not beyond. From the Cherokee entrance, you can drive as far as Collins Creek.

The National Park Service estimates that the road will reopen in mid-May. Until then, if you wish to travel from the Tennessee side to the Cherokee side of the Smokies, you may want to follow Highway 40 around the east side of the park and enter there. Plan your Smoky Mountains shooting accordingly! Visit the National Park Service website for updates and further information at **www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/temproadclose.htm**

New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP member, **Susie Brent**.

Member News

Michael Abbene will be leading two photography courses at **the Saint Louis Zoo** this summer: "Photography at the Zoo" for students entering 7th or 8th grade will be held on June 15th & 22nd from 8:30-11:30 and "Photography at the Zoo 2" for students entering 9th, 10th, or 11th grades on July 13th and 20th from 8:30-11:30. If MoNEP members have children, grandchildren, other young family members or friends who might be interested in signing up, on-line registration for Zoo members opens on March 4th. Registration for non-members begins one week later.

Glenn Curcio's stunning image of a blue morpho butterfly is the cover shot of the current ***Show-me Missouri*** magazine. His images of the **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House** are also featured inside. Some his images of the Butterfly House are also posted on line at **www.showmemissouri.net**.

Membership Co-Chair Update

Michelle Jones has kindly taken over for **Vicki Northrop** as MoNEP's membership co-chair. Michelle will serve alongside **Shawn Northrop**. They will share the responsibility of processing new memberships and renewals, maintaining the email list and handling registration for special events such as our biennial seminars. Thanks, Michelle, for stepping in and helping out. We also want to thank Vicki for all her hard work these past several years despite ever increasing demands at her "real" job. We appreciate your keeping everything in tiptop shape!

Members, if you need to update any of your information, such as your email or postal address, please contact Michelle or Shawn at **michelle@mmjones.us** or **snorth70@gmail.com**. Please note that our new mailing address is in care of **Michelle Jones**, **45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.** To contact the co-chairs by phone, please call Michelle at **314.383.6256**.

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The Camera always points both ways. In expressing your subject, you also express yourself.

~ Freeman Patterson
Photographer/Writer

Nature Photography Ethics

It is the beginning of that time of year when there will be so many subjects vying for our photographic attention. Fields of wildflowers and baby birds in the nest will speak to us and we will try to capture some of these wonders of nature. There has long been much debate as to how far we as photographers should go to get that great shot. This may be a good time to think about the ethical implications of photographing nature. A good guide for this is the North American Nature Photography Association's (NANPA) Principles of Ethical Field Practices. It is easy to forget that "every place, plant, and animal, whether above or below water, is unique, and cumulative impacts occur over time." Here are a couple of the NANPA Ethical Practices to remember:

- Learn patterns of animal behavior and know when not to interfere with animals' life cycles.
- Use appropriate lenses to photograph wild animals--if an animal shows stress, move back and use a longer lens.

This is particularly important when around nests sites or dens with baby animals. Our presence can cause extreme stress to young and adults. Learn more at **www.nanpa.org**.

Camera Club Seminar

Although the topic is not nature photography, MoNEP members may be interested in this year's **St. Louis Camera Club Seminar** on **Saturday April 13th from 8:00 to 4:00 at Maritz in Fenton.** The presenter is **David Stoecklein**, one of the members of the elite group of photographers, the **Canon Explorers of Light.** David Stoecklein photographs the American West and his images include portraits, cowboys and cowgirls at work, horses, farms, ranches and landscapes. You can see his images on his web site: **stoeckleinphotography.com**.

Registration for the seminar is $25 and includes lunch. You can register online at **www.stlcameraclub.com**. The registration deadline is April 6th.

Santa Fe Photographic Workshops Contest

Santa Fe Photographic Workshop's first photo contest of 2013 is now open. The theme for this year's semi-annual contest is Animals. The deadline for entries is May 7th, and the fee for entering three images is $40. ($30 for entries submitted by March 19th.) There is a $10 fee for each additional entry. For more details on the contest including how to enter and prizes visit their website at: **www.santafeworkshops.com**

THE Corner Gallery

featuring MoNEP members' photography

Dried Mud
Jim Rhodes

Dick Roman

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, March 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The March meeting will be held at the **Ethical Society**. The Ethical Society is located at **9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117**, just ½ mile west of the intersection of Clayton Road and Brentwood Boulevard, on the north side of Clayton Road. The meeting room is located on the lower level and is easily accessible from the parking lot at the back of the building.

March Meeting – The Ethical Society

Mark H.X. Glenshaw is an award-winning naturalist who has closely observed and documented the lives of a mated pair of Great Horned Owls in Forest Park since December 2005. During this time, he has seen and photographed a wide range of behaviors including hunting, mating, nest-site selection and the rearing of young owls. He shares his work on his blog, ***Forest Park Owls***, at **forestparkowls.blogspot.com**

Mark's talk will cover how he found these owls, some basic facts about the species and the different behaviors he has observed and documented with photos and videos. He will provide tips on how to dress, walk and behave so that you can get close to wildlife and photograph without disturbing your subjects. Although Mark takes many photos and videos of these owls and other wildlife in Forest Park, he does not consider himself a photographer. Rather he views himself as a naturalist who uses cameras to document what he sees. His work has been featured in *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *St. Louis Magazine*, KTVI Fox 2, *The West End Word* and *Show-Me Missouri*. He leads tours, called owl prowls, of the owls' territory. He also gives talks for interested individuals and small groups as well as for formal events and groups such as The St. Louis Bioblitz, Wonders of Wildlife-St. Louis, Missouri Department of Conservation and Washington University in St. Louis. He was awarded the Citizen Scientist Award for the 2006 St. Louis Bioblitz by the Academy of Science-St. Louis.

April Meeting

Dr. Patricia Hagen, executive director of the **Audubon Center at Riverlands** will be the presenter at the April 16th meeting. Dr. Hagen led the development of the National Audubon Society's efforts to establish an Audubon Center in the St. Louis region. Her presentation will be on the things to see and do at the Riverlands. She will also focus on some of the birds we can expect to see there over the coming months.

Dr. Hagen received her Doctorate in Public Policy Analysis from Saint Louis University. She spent twenty years at SLU, where she served as Associate Provost for Research, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

February Meeting Recap

David Hanlon, a professor of photographic art and history at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, provided an overview of the history of nature photography at the February meeting. David discussed the different approaches photographers have used to interpret nature. Early nature photographers focused on one of two things: scientific documentation of plants and animals or capturing the landscape or scene for its aesthetic value. To document plants, photographers would place a leaf or flower on photo-reactive paper to capture its image.

Many early nature photographers wanted to capture the lighting, shadows and reflections one would see in paintings. Themes included rural settings with hillsides and livestock, only adding people later when using them as a subject to represent agrarian society or rural life. The subject matter changed over time. People were captured interacting with the environment. They were photographed admiring an object like a flower or a scenic view.

The use of soft focus was popular to suggest the emotions the photographer wanted the image to suggest. A photo of a wooded pathway might be taken from a vantage point featuring the trees growing over the path to imply a journey or as a path with a turn in the distance to suggest an unknown journey, the twists of fate or uncertainty.

The term "en plein air" was used to describe painters who worked outdoors, but the term was also used to describe photographers who traveled great distances to photograph the grandeur and expanse of the outdoors. They traveled with very large 200-pound cameras and a supply of glass plates weighing about 20 pounds each. They used mules to transport these tools and developing chemicals high into the hills of the West. They would photograph grand landscapes and develop the panes in the field to ensure that the image was successfully captured before moving to the next location.

Photography has gone through many stages and trends. As painters started exploring shapes and abstraction, photographers began looking for the abstract shapes, textures and forms in nature. Abstract images showed textures, colors and patterns to tell a story. In the 1900's images appeared with the geometry of natural objects as the focus. Photographs of subjects such as pea tendrils curling around a vine or a cactus with spines radiating from its center became more common. The 1920's saw nature photographers becoming more descriptive, working close to the subject.

David also talked about the "development" of the photographic negative from photo-reactive paper to daguerreotypes to gelatin emulsions. Black and white images fell out of favor with the advent of the color negative but have regained some popularity recently particularly with the advent of digital processing.

It was inspiring to see how photography has helped us see the natural world from the very simplest of subjects to the grand beauty of natural landscape. Our thanks to David for sharing the amazing evolution of nature photography over the past 150 years.

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Visit our web-site at www.monep.org			

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